

Agency 357

## Department of Early Learning

## Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b>2009-11 Expenditure Authority</b>	201.6	81,641	305,305	386,946
<b>Total Maintenance Level</b>	212.4	52,287	324,943	377,230
Difference	10.9	(29,354)	19,638	(9,716)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	5.4%	(36.0)%	6.4%	(2.5)%
<b>Performance Changes</b>				
Administrative Reduction		(541)		(541)
ECEAP Service Adjustment #		(9,000)		(9,000)
Longitudinal Data System Grant	3.5			
Eliminate Career and Wage Program	(.5)	(3,000)		(3,000)
Seasonal Child Care Administration Reduction		(2,070)		(2,070)
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(114)	(390)	(504)
State Data Center Rate Increase		141		141
<b>Subtotal</b>	3.0	(14,584)	(390)	(14,974)
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	215.4	37,703	324,553	362,256
Difference	13.9	(43,938)	19,248	(24,690)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	6.9%	(53.8)%	6.3%	(6.4)%
<b>Total Proposed Budget by Activity</b>				
Agency Operations/Administration	33.0	10,906	9,780	20,686
Child Care Licensing	133.7		23,972	23,972
Child Care and Early Learning Quality Initiatives	25.5	4,065	37,922	41,987
Child Care Subsidies			153,582	153,582
Early Learning Programs	23.2	22,732	99,297	122,029
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	215.4	37,703	324,553	362,256

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

**Administrative Reduction**

Agency administration is reduced by 10 percent. Savings will be achieved through reduced personal service contracts, reductions to information technology contractors, vacancy savings, and other efficiencies.

**ECEAP Service Adjustment #**

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) will focus on serving four-year-old children exclusively, except in certain rural areas where three-year-old enrollment is needed to make services viable. Savings are achieved through a reduction of 1,324 preschool slots for three-year-olds, while expanding the number of slots for four-year-olds by 662.

## **EDUCATION - OTHER**

### **Longitudinal Data System Grant**

The Department will participate in the development of a statewide longitudinal education data system in collaboration with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Funds for this three-year project are provided through a federal grant to OFM. FTE staff are provided to implement the agency's responsibilities under the grant.

### **Eliminate Career and Wage Program**

The Department will eliminate a pilot program offering wage supplements to employees in approximately 55 child care centers in Washington to support professional development. A contract staff position associated with the program is also eliminated.

### **Seasonal Child Care Administration Reduction**

State funds to administer child care subsidies to seasonal agricultural workers through non-profit organizations, such as the Yakima Valley Farm Worker Clinic, are eliminated. Funding for seasonal child care subsidies is not reduced, but eligibility determinations will now be administered by the Department of Social and Health Services.

## **ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Agency Operations/Administration**

The administration and management of the department includes governance, executive management, fiscal operations, information technology, data management, human resources, communications and outreach, government relations, and tort costs.

### **Child Care Licensing**

Licensing regulations are focused on the safety and health requirements that serve as the foundation from which quality learning opportunities can be built. The Department of Early Learning is responsible for licensing over 7,700 child care homes and centers providing child care for 180,000 children.

Licensing staff offer orientations for providers, process background checks, inspect, issue licenses and monitor facilities, complete complaint inspections, and take corrective action as necessary.

### **Child Care and Early Learning Quality Initiatives**

The Department of Early Learning develops and implements programs and activities that provide comprehensive consumer education to parents and the public, increase parental choice, research and evaluation, and improve the quality and availability of early education opportunities. These initiatives include: piloting a quality rating improvement system that supports and incentivizes increased quality in family home and center-based early learning and school-age settings, resource and referral support for parents, professional development opportunities (training, coaching, and higher education), and registry for providers, and other quality improvement activities, including:

- Washington Scholarships
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Building Bridges
- Career and Wage Ladder
- Seeds to Success
- Managed Education Registry Information Tool,
- Partnering with the Department of Health's CHILD Profile to send information to all new parents in Washington about choosing quality child care.

### **Child Care Subsidies**

The Working Connections Child Care program provides child care subsidy payments to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) consumers, WorkFirst participants, and low-income working families to help pay for child care costs.

The Department of Early Learning is responsible for oversight and policy for the working connections subsidy program, and contracts for Seasonal Child Care subsidies which provide agricultural workers assistance with child care costs; and Homeless Child Care programs which support homeless families to stabilize their housing and work situations. The Department is responsible for writing rules and interpreting regulations for its programs, and administers the collective bargaining agreement with family homes.

### **Early Learning Programs**

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is a comprehensive school readiness program serving low-income and at-risk three- and four-year-old children and their families. ECEAP services address the many factors that affect a child's development and learning ability, including preschool education, health services coordination, nutrition, and family support.

The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program provides services for infants and toddlers, birth to three, who have disabilities and/or developmental delays. Eligible infants and toddlers and their families in Washington State are entitled to individualized, quality early intervention services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.